

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

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**ORDER AND  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Ryan J. White,

Case No. 11-cv-3702 (NEB/DJF)

Plaintiff,

v.

Governor Mark Dayton, et al.,

Defendants.

Gary P. Scott,

Case No. 11-cv-3714 (NEB/DJF)

Plaintiff,

v.

Governor Mark Dayton, et al.,

Defendants.

James D. Fries,

Case No. 12-cv-0062 (NEB/DJF)

Plaintiff,

v.

Governor Mark Dayton, et al.,

Defendants.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Over a decade ago, each Plaintiff in the above-entitled matters filed a largely similar lawsuit challenging the legality of conditions at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (“MSOP”).

The Court stayed each lawsuit during the pendency of a related class action lawsuit, *Karsjens v. Minnesota Department of Human Services*, No. 11-CV-3659 (DWF/TNL) (“*Karsjens*”). After final judgment was entered in *Karsjens*, the Court lifted the stay, reviewed each of the lawsuits under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), dismissed the majority of each Plaintiff’s claims, and allowed a small subset of claims to go forward.<sup>1</sup>

Defendants subsequently filed the same Motion to Dismiss in each of these three lawsuits.<sup>2</sup> *White v. Dayton et. al*, Civ. No. 11-3702 (NEB/DJF) (“*White*”) (ECF No. 27); *Scott v. Dayton et. al*, Civ. No. 11-3714 (NEB/DJF) (“*Scott*”) (ECF No. 32); *Fries v. Dayton et. al*, Civ. No. 12-62 (NEB/DJF) (“*Fries*”) (ECF No. 27).<sup>3</sup> The Motions to Dismiss are now before the Court for report and recommendation to the District Judge. In addition, Plaintiffs Ryan J. White and Gary P. Scott each filed a nearly identical, self-styled Motion to Not Dismiss the Complaint in opposition to Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss.<sup>4</sup> *White* (ECF No. 38); *Scott* (ECF No. 39). Plaintiff James D.

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<sup>1</sup> The three lawsuits currently before Court are part of a larger group of eight lawsuits stayed during the pendency of *Karsjens* that were very similar: (1) each case was filed within months of each other; (2) each Plaintiff raised precisely the same twenty-one causes of action challenging the legality of conditions at the MSOP; and (3) the complaint used to commence each lawsuit was practically identical to the other complaints, with only the Plaintiffs and a small number of the dozens of defendants changing from one case to the next. Because of the similarities, the Court issued a single Order and Report and Recommendation that addressed all eight cases after completing its review under section 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii). *See White v. Dayton, et al.*, Civ. Nos. 11- 3702 (NEB/DJF), 11-3714 (NEB/DJF), 11-3733 (NEB/DJF), 12-0062 (NEB/DJF), 12-0343 (NEB/DJF), 12-0344 (NEB/DJF), 12-0495 (NEB/DJF), 12-0881 (NEB/DJF), 2023 WL 21918, at \*1 (D. Minn. Jan. 3, 2023), *report and recomm. adopted*, Civ. No. 11-3702, 2023 WL 1797830 (D. Minn. Feb. 7, 2023). The District Judge subsequently adopted the Report and Recommendation in a single Order. *See id.*

<sup>2</sup> The undersigned considers Defendants’ Motions to Dismiss pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 72.1.

<sup>3</sup> Defendants also filed the same Motion to Dismiss in *Hartleib v. Dayton, et al.*, Civ. No. 12-0344 (NEB/DJF) (D. Minn.), but Mr. Hartleib voluntarily dismissed his lawsuit before the Court reviewed the Motion to Dismiss. (*See id.*, ECF Nos. 31, 38, 40.)

Fries did not file a response. Plaintiffs White and Scott each also filed a motion to appoint counsel. *White* (ECF No. 34); *Scott* (ECF No. 27). Because of the similarities between the lawsuits and the pleadings currently at issue, the Court addresses each lawsuit in a single Order and Report and Recommendation.

## BACKGROUND

### I. Plaintiffs' Complaints

Plaintiffs White, Scott, and Fries (collectively “Plaintiffs”) are each involuntarily committed to the MSOP pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 253B, the Minnesota Commitment and Treatment Act (the “MCTA”). Each Plaintiff’s complaint sues largely the same defendants, who include: (1) former Governor of Minnesota, Mark Dayton; (2) former Minnesota Attorney General, Lori Swanson; and (3) current and former directors, employees, and/or agents of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (“DHS”). (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 13-40).<sup>5</sup> Only official capacity claims remain against these defendants. (*See* ECF Nos. 18, 20.)

The gravamen of the Plaintiffs’ complaints is that the conditions of their civil commitments violate the Constitution: “[t]he policies controlling the conditions of confinement [at the MSOP] are nearly identical to those for criminals serving their sentences” and that each Plaintiff “has a constitutional right to adequate health care and to a therapeutic environment.” (ECF No. 1 at 2.)

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<sup>4</sup> Plaintiffs White and Scott’s opposition briefs are substantively similar to the opposition brief another MSOP plaintiff filed in *Jamison v. Ludeman*, Civ. No. 11-2136 (PAM/DTS) (D. Minn. Jan. 23, 2023) (ECF No. 52).

<sup>5</sup> For ease of reference the Court will generally discuss the cases as though they constituted a single lawsuit and will cite just the docket entries filed in *White* throughout this Order and Report and Recommendation. Only when it is necessary to distinguish among the three cases will the Court discuss the cases separately, though the Court has reviewed each of the pleadings individually.

Plaintiffs also raise allegations against multiple named and unnamed MSOP “policies and procedures” that they claim are a “restraint” on their “liberty.” (*Id.* at 3.)

Many of the allegations in the Plaintiffs’ complaints are not specific to the Plaintiffs’ personal experiences at the MSOP. For example, while Plaintiffs allege various policies “humiliate,” “harass,” and “dehumanize” them, Plaintiffs do not allege any specific incidents in which the policies were applied to them to support their broad allegations. (*See, e.g., id.* ¶¶ 100, 103, 106 (alleging policies related to visitors, canteen currency, and cell searches, respectively).)

Plaintiffs initially raised twenty-one causes of action (“COAs”). (*Id.* ¶¶ 132-194.) Following the Court’s review under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), only the following five COAs remain:

**Second COA**—Unreasonable Restrictions on Free Speech (*Id.* ¶¶ 135-137);

**Third COA**—Unreasonable Searches and Seizures<sup>6</sup> (*Id.* ¶¶ 138-140);

**Ninth COA**—Cruel and Unusual Punishment (*Id.* ¶¶ 156-158);

**Eleventh COA**- Denial of Procedural Due Process; (*Id.* ¶¶ 162-164); and

**Seventeenth COA**—Violates the Totality of the Conditions (alleging the totality of the conditions violates the Fourteenth Amendment) (*Id.* ¶¶ 180-182).

Each of these remaining COAs arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and is based on alleged violations of Plaintiffs’ rights under the United States Constitution and, in some instances, the Minnesota Constitution.

In addition to listing causes of action, Plaintiffs divide their complaints’ factual allegations with headings. (*See, e.g., id.* ¶¶ 44- 46 (“Basis for Confinement”); 47-56 (“Treatment”); 57-61

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<sup>6</sup> On preliminary review, the Court dismissed two of the three subparts to Plaintiffs’ unreasonable search and seizure claims, leaving only the claim that MSOP policies regarding the seizure of personal property may violate the Fourth Amendment. (ECF No. 18 at 21-24.)

(“Punishment”); 62-65 (“Restriction Status”); 66-70 (“Lockdowns”).) None of Plaintiffs’ five remaining COAs identifies any factual allegations specific to that COA; rather, each refers to allegations in preceding paragraphs. (*See, e.g., id.* ¶ 135 (“Plaintiff incorporates by references and re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 134 of this complaint.”).)

## **II. The *Karsjens* Litigation**

In *Karsjens*, a class of plaintiffs consisting of all clients who were then committed at the MSOP, including Plaintiffs White, Scott, and Fries, and who were represented by counsel, pursued numerous claims regarding the lawfulness of conditions at the MSOP. *See Karsjens* (ECF Nos. 203, 635). *Karsjens* was litigated for more than a decade and consisted of three appeals, with the third appeal still pending. *See Karsjens v. Piper*, 845 F.3d 394, 409 (8th Cir. 2017) (“*Karsjens I*”); *Karsjens v. Lourey*, 988 F.3d 1047, 1051 (8th Cir. 2021) (“*Karsjens II*”); *see also Karsjens* (ECF Nos. 1, 1036, 1118, 1200).

The operative complaint in *Karsjens*, filed October 14, 2014, asserted the following thirteen claims: (I) Minnesota Statute § 253D is facially unconstitutional; (II) Minnesota Statute § 253D is unconstitutional as applied; (III) Defendants have failed to provide treatment in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution; (IV) Defendants have failed to provide treatment in violation of the MCTA; (V) Defendants have denied Plaintiffs the right to be free from punishment in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution; (VI) Defendants have denied Plaintiffs the right to less restrictive alternative confinement in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution; (VII) Defendants have denied Plaintiffs the right to be free from inhumane treatment in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution; (VIII) Defendants

have denied Plaintiffs the right to religion and religious freedom in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; (IX) Defendants have unreasonably restricted free speech and free association in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution; (X) Defendants have conducted unreasonable searches and seizures in violation of the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution; (XI) Defendants have violated court ordered treatment; (XII) individual Defendants have breached Plaintiffs' contractual rights; and (XIII) individual Defendants have tortiously interfered with contractual rights and have intentionally violated Minn. Stat. § 253B.03, subd. 7. *Karsjens*, Third. Am. Compl. (ECF No. 635) ("*Karsjens* TAC") ¶¶ 226- 352.

Central to the class claims in *Karsjens* were the plaintiffs' allegations that the defendants in that matter—consisting of the Commissioner of DHS and various MSOP employees (in their official capacities) including current Defendants Jesson, Carlson, Moser, Benson, and Lundquist—imposed policies and procedures that resulted in unconstitutional and illegal conditions of confinement. *See Karsjens*, TAC ¶ 1. On plaintiffs' motion, the court dismissed with prejudice Counts IV, XI, XII, and XII on April 10, 2015. *Karsjens* (ECF No. 1005). In the first *Karsjens* appeal, the Eighth Circuit entered judgment in the defendants' favor on Counts I and II. *Karsjens I* at 409. On remand in August 2018, the district court dismissed Counts III, V, VI, and VII, and granted summary judgment in favor of defendants on the remaining claims, Counts VIII, IX, and X. *Karsjens v. Piper*, 336 F. Supp. 3d 974, 998 (D. Minn. August 23, 2018). In the second *Karsjens* appeal, the Eighth Circuit reversed the dismissal of Counts V, VI, and VII and remanded them for reconsideration under a different legal standard. *Karsjens II* at 1051. On remand in February 2022, the district court again dismissed with prejudice Counts V, VI, and VII.

*Karsjens v. Harpstead*, Civ. No. 11--3659 (DWF/TNL), 2022 WL 542467, at \*18 (D. Minn. Feb. 23, 2022) appeal docketed, Case No. 22-1459 (8th Cir. March 4, 2022). Among other things, the court held that the conditions of confinement and the challenged MSOP policies and procedures were not unconstitutional or otherwise illegal. *Id.*

## DISCUSSION

### I. Motions to Appoint Counsel

Plaintiffs White and Scott each request that the Court appoint counsel to represent them in their respective proceedings. “A pro se litigant has no statutory or constitutional right to have counsel appointed in a civil case.” *Stevens v. Redwing*, 146 F.3d 538, 546 (8th Cir. 1998). Rather, the appointment of counsel is a matter of the Court’s discretion. *McCall v. Benson*, 114 F.3d 754, 756 (8th Cir. 1997); *Mosby v. Mabry*, 697 F.2d 213, 214 (8th Cir. 1982). Factors to consider in deciding whether to appoint counsel include: “(1) the factual complexity of the issues; (2) the ability of the indigent person to investigate the facts; (3) the existence of conflicting testimony; (4) the ability [of the] indigent person to present the claims; and (5) the complexity of the legal arguments.” *Crozier v. Westside Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 973 F.3d 882, 889 (8th Cir. 2020) (citing cases).

The Court recognizes Plaintiff White and Scott’s strong desire for appointment of counsel. That said, the Court cannot conclude that either matter is factually or legally complex. Plaintiffs’ entitlement to relief on their remaining claims turns on the content of policies at the MSOP, which is well within each Plaintiff’s capabilities to investigate—even as pro se litigants. Moreover, each Plaintiff has demonstrated at least a baseline ability to present his claims and litigate in federal court. Finally, as discussed below, the Court recommends each Plaintiff’s matter be dismissed, but to the extent any conflicting testimony may emerge later, this factor does not outweigh the others. Accordingly, the Court denies each of the motions for appointment of counsel.

## II. Motions to Dismiss

Defendants argue Plaintiffs' remaining COAs should be dismissed with prejudice because they were or could have been litigated in *Karsjens* and are therefore barred under the doctrine of res judicata or claim preclusion. (ECF No. 29 at 9-18.) In the alternative, Defendants argue Plaintiffs' complaints should be dismissed for improper pleading or failure to state a claim. (*Id.* at 15 n.11, 18- 22.)

### A. Legal Standard

#### 1. Standard of Review Under Rule 12(B)(6)

In deciding a motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), a court assumes all facts in the complaint to be true and construes all reasonable inferences from those facts in the light most favorable to the complainant. *Morton v. Becker*, 793 F.2d 185, 187 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1986). In doing so, however, a court need not accept as true conclusory allegations, *Hanten v. Sch. Dist. of Riverview Gardens*, 183 F.3d 799, 805 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999), or legal conclusions drawn by the pleader from the facts alleged, *Westcott v. City of Omaha*, 901 F.2d 1486, 1488 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990). A court may consider the complaint, matters of public record, orders, materials embraced by the complaint, and exhibits attached to the complaint in deciding a motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6). *Porous Media Corp. v. Pall Corp.*, 186 F.3d 1077, 1079 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999).

#### 2. Pleading Requirements

Rule 8(a)(2) requires that a complaint include “a short plain statement of the claim showing the pleader is entitled to relief ....” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Though Rule 8(a)(2) does not require detailed factual allegations, “it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)(citation omitted). “To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true,



to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Id.* (quotation omitted). “A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Id.* Although a complaint need not contain “detailed factual allegations,” it must contain facts with enough specificity “to raise a right to relief above the speculative level.” *Id.* at 555. As the United States Supreme Court has held, “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements,” will not pass muster. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (citing *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)). In sum, this standard “calls for enough fact[s] to raise a reasonable expectation that discovery will reveal evidence of [the claim].” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556. Although pro se complaints must be construed liberally, such complaints still must allege sufficient facts to state a claim as a matter of law. *Martin v. Aubuchon*, 623 F.2d 1282, 1286 (8th Cir. 1980).

Rule 11(b) places additional requirements on pleadings filed both by “an attorney or unrepresented party.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(b). Any party who files “a pleading, writing motion, or other paper ... [with the Court] certifies that to the best of the person’s knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances ... [that] the factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery.” *Id.* at 11(b)(3).

Taken together, “[i]t is the plaintiffs’ burden, under both Rule 8 and Rule 11, to reasonably investigate their claims, to research the relevant law, to plead only viable claims, and to plead those claims concisely and clearly, so that a defendant can readily respond to them and a court can readily resolve them.” *Gurman v. Metro Hous. Dev. Auth.*, 842 F. Supp. 2d 1151, 1153 (D. Minn. 2011). For these reasons, “[t]his Court has repeatedly criticized the filing of ‘kitchen-sink’ or ‘shotgun’ complaints—complaints in which a plaintiff brings every conceivable claim against every

conceivable defendant.” *Id.* at 1153 (collecting cases). Such complaints shift “onto the defendant and the court the burden of identifying the plaintiff’s genuine claims and determining which of those claims might have legal support.” *Id.* Most problematically for plaintiffs filing ‘kitchen-sink’ complaints, it becomes nearly impossible for the court to discern whether the plaintiff states a viable claim for relief because the allegations become “wreathed in a halo of frivolous and near-frivolous legal claims. The bad obscures the good.” *Id.* at 1154.

### **B. Claim Preclusion**

Defendants argue Plaintiffs claims were or could have been fully litigated in the *Karsjens* action and are thus barred by claim and issue preclusion, also known as res judicata and collateral estoppel. (ECF No. 29 at 9-18.) Plaintiffs do not meaningfully respond to this argument; rather, Plaintiffs White and Scott each argue class counsel in *Karsjens* did not raise all claims that could have been raised in that matter and was therefore ineffective. (ECF No. 38 at 3-4.) They further contend *Karsjens* was not decided in a court of competent jurisdiction, did not render a final judgment on the merits, and did not involve the same parties because the court’s reasoning in *Karsjesn* was based on the wrong legal standard.<sup>7</sup> (*Id.* at 8-11.)

The Court agrees with Defendants that Plaintiff’s claims are barred under the doctrine of claim preclusion.<sup>8</sup> The principles of claim preclusion are well-settled:

[W]hen a court of competent jurisdiction has entered a final judgment on the merits of a cause of action, the parties to the suit and their privies are thereafter bound “not

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<sup>7</sup> Plaintiffs White and Scott’s opposition memoranda are also laden with various denigrations and accusations of Rule 11 violations against defense counsel. (*See generally* ECF No. 38.) The Court recognizes Plaintiffs’ frustration with the judicial process, but Plaintiffs’ vitriol is misplaced. As Judge Paul A. Magnuson recently observed in response to the same accusations, “the Assistant Attorney General has zealously represented his clients; he has not committed any violations of his obligations to the Court or to [Plaintiffs].” *Jamison v. Ludeman*, Civ. No. 11-2136 (PAM/DTS), 2023 WL 2088302, at \*2 (D. Minn. Feb. 17, 2023). The Court agrees.

<sup>8</sup> Because the Court finds claim preclusion applies, it does not reach Defendants’ argument regarding issue preclusion.

only to every matter which was offered and received to sustain or defeat the claim or demand, but as to any other admissible matter which might have been offered for that purpose.”

*Comm’r v. Sunnen*, 333 U.S. 591, 597 (1948) (quoting *Cromwell v. County of Sac*, 94 U.S. 351, 352 (1876)). A court evaluating whether preclusion bars a party from asserting a claim must examine whether: (1) there has been a final judgment on the merits of a cause of action; (2) the court that issued the judgment was “of competent jurisdiction”; (3) the person seeking to preclude the claim was a party or a privy to a party in the first litigation; and (4) the claim sought to be precluded either was actually litigated or is a claim that “might have been offered” in the first litigation. *See id.*

The first three elements of claim preclusion are clearly satisfied here: (1) the court dismissed the claims raised in *Karsjens* with prejudice and on the merits; (2) the *Karsjens* court was of competent jurisdiction; and (3) the Defendants named in Plaintiffs’ lawsuits in their official capacities are alleged to be agents of the same governmental entity as the defendants named in *Karsjens*. *See Jamison*, 2023 WL 2088302, at \*2 (finding these elements satisfied under the same circumstances presented here); *Allan v. Jesson, et al.*, No. 11-cv-1611 (ADM/LIB), Order and Report & Recomm. (D. Minn. Mar. 27, 2023) (same).

The Court also finds the fourth element is satisfied because Plaintiffs’ remaining COAs were or could have been litigated in *Karsjens*. Specifically, Plaintiffs already raised and fully litigated the following claims in *Karsjens*:

- **Second COA**—Unreasonable Restrictions on Free Speech: Plaintiffs claim Defendants unreasonably restricted free speech in violation of the Constitution (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 135-137). Plaintiffs raised an identical claim in *Karsjens*. *Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 307-315 (Count

IX) (Unreasonable Restriction of Free Speech and Free Association in Violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution).

- **Third COA**—Unreasonable Seizures of Personal Property: Plaintiffs claim Defendants performed unreasonable searches and seizures in violation of the Fourth Amendment (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 138-140). Plaintiffs raised the same claim in *Karsjens*. *Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 316-325 (Count X) (Unreasonable Searches and Seizures in Violation of the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution).

- **Ninth and Seventeenth COAs**—Cruel and Unusual Punishment and Totality of the Conditions: Plaintiffs claim Defendants subjected them to cruel and unusual punishment in violation of their Constitutional rights (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 156-158), and further allege the “Totality of the Conditions” at the MSOP violates the constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 180-182).<sup>9</sup> These claims mirror claims Plaintiffs also raised in *Karsjens*. *Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 269-283 (Count V) (Denial of Right to be Free from Punishment in Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution); and ¶¶ 292-297 (Count VII) (Denial of Right to be Free from Inhumane Treatment in Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution).

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<sup>9</sup> Plaintiffs’ Seventeenth COA alleges Defendants’ conduct “ha[s] made plaintiff[s] currently suffer the totality of the conditions of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution” and “Defendants are acting with intent to deny plaintiff[s] [their] constitutional rights.” (ECF No. 1 ¶ 181). The Court liberally construes Plaintiffs’ allegation to mean that the “totality of the conditions” at MSOP violates the Constitution’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth or Fourteenth Amendments. *See Holt v. Sarver*, 309 F. Supp. 362 (E.D. Ark. 1970), *aff’d and remanded*, 442 F.2d 304 (8th Cir. 1971) (finding the totality of conditions in certain units of a prison—including no windows, nonworking lights and toilets, and multiple stabbings—violated the Constitution’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment).

- **Eleventh COA**—Denial of Procedural Due Process in Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment: Plaintiffs claim Defendants violated their procedural due process rights in violation of the Constitution (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 162-164). Plaintiffs similarly alleged in *Karsjens* that the MCTA and the conditions at MSOP violated their due process rights. *Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 226-233 (Count I) (alleging the MCTA is unconstitutional on its face); and ¶¶ 234-253 (Count II) (alleging the MCTA is unconstitutional as applied).

Because Plaintiffs previously raised their remaining COAs in *Karsjens*, the *Karsjens* court had jurisdiction over the claims, Defendants either were defendants in *Karsjens* or are in privity with the *Karsjens* defendants, and there is a final judgment on the merits of those claims, Plaintiff's remaining COAs are barred from further prosecution under the doctrine of claim preclusion. The Court accordingly recommends Plaintiffs' remaining COAs be dismissed with prejudice.

The Court further finds that to the extent Plaintiffs' remaining allegations differ from those raised in *Karsjens* in any respect, they are likewise barred because "a final judgment on the merits of an action precludes the parties or their privies from relitigating issues that were *or could have been* raised in that action." *Plough v. W. Des Moines Comm. Sch. Dist.*, 70 F.3d 512, 514 (8th Cir. 1995) (citation omitted) (emphasis added). Claims that "arise [ ] out of the same nucleus of operative facts as the prior claim" are precluded. *Yankton Sioux Tribe v. U.S. Dep't of Health & Hum. Servs.*, 533 F.3d 634, 641 (8th Cir. 2008) (citation omitted). Here, all of Plaintiffs' remaining allegations broadly relate to the conditions of confinement at the MSOP and arise out of the same nucleus of operative facts already covered in *Karsjens*.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Plaintiffs' factual allegations track very closely to the factual allegations they asserted in *Karsjens*. *Compare* Basis for Confinement (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 44-46) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 53-62; Treatment (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 47-56; 87-92) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 68-79; Discipline, Management Plans and Punishment (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 57-65) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 123-140; Lockdowns and Curfew (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 66-70) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 92, 138(m), 150, 163; Conditions of and

Plaintiffs argue the courts relied on the wrong legal precedent in *Karsjens* and that the pending appeal in *Karsjens* negates any final judgment, but these arguments do not alter the conclusion that Plaintiffs' claims are barred. First, the court's reasoning on an issue or claim is unrelated to whether the claim was raised or could have been raised in a previous action. *Magee v. Hamline Univ.*, 1 F. Supp. 3d 967, 973 (D. Minn. 2014), *aff'd in part*, 775 F.3d 1057 (8th Cir. 2015); *see also Jamison*, 2023 WL 2088302, at \*2, n.1,2 (finding all of plaintiff's were "barred" by claim preclusion despite some differences); *Allan*, Civ. No. 11-3702, at 10. Second, a district court's judgment is "final until reversed in an appellate court, or modified or set aside in the court of its rendition." *Stoll v. Gottlieb*, 305 U.S. 165, 170 (1938); *see also Procknow v. Curry*, 26 F. Supp. 3d 875, 882 n.10 (D. Minn. 2014) (pending appeal does not affect the finality of a judgment for collateral estoppel purposes); *In re Ewing*, 852 F.2d 1057, 1060 (8th Cir. 1988) (rejecting argument that res judicata was improperly applied because appeal was pending, and noting, "It is well established in the federal courts that the pendency of an appeal does not diminish

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Denial of Yard Time (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 71-74) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶ 138(e-k); Excessively Restrictive Conditions/Conditions of Confinement (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 93-96) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 141-205; Censorship, Delay, and Loss of Mail/Packages (ECF No. 1 ¶ 102) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 161 (a-b); Excessive Visitation Restrictions (ECF No. 1 ¶ 100) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 180-183; Unnecessary Restraints and Arbitrary Placements in Isolation Cells (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 62-65, 68) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶ 161(d); Denial of Access to Law Library and Legal Mail (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 77-79) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 138(d), 161(b); Unreasonable Strip Searches (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 111-113) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 157-158; Other Unreasonable Searches (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 106-107) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 155-162; Denial of or Inadequacy of Meals (ECF No. 1 ¶ 114) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 190- 194; Denial of Personal Property (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 108-110, 114-118) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 173-179; Monitoring Telephone Calls (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 97-99) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶ 161(f); Denial of Recreational Activities and Exercise/Use of Yards (ECF No. 1 ¶ 119) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶ 138 (e); Inadequate Medical Care (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 3, 80, 130) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 169- 172; Denial of Access to Store/Canteen (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 103-105) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 146, 161(j); Denial of Educational/Employment Opportunities (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 75-76, 120) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 184-189; Equal Protection/Denial of Less Restrictive Alternative (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 121-123) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 284-291; Violations of the MCTA (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 124-130) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 262-268; Negligent Hiring and Credentialing of MSOP Staff (ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 80-81) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶ 93; and Double Occupancy Rooms (ECF No. ¶ 87) *with Karsjens* TAC ¶¶ 152-154.

the res judicata effect of a judgment rendered by a federal court.”). Plaintiffs’ challenge to the quality of the *Karsjens* class counsel is similarly unavailing. As District Judge Paul Magnuson recently stated, “[T]he quality of class counsel’s representation in *Karsjens* is not at issue here. [Each Plaintiff] has brought claims ... against individuals who were or are responsible for the conditions of his continued detention. Those individuals cannot afford him any relief for the ostensible deficiencies of class counsel in *Karsjens*.” *Jamison*, 2023 WL 2088302, at \*1.

Because all of Plaintiffs’ remaining COAs and factual allegations are barred, the Court recommends Plaintiffs’ complaints be dismissed with prejudice. Moreover, the Court further finds Plaintiffs’ kitchen-sink style complaints fail to satisfy the pleading requirements under Rules 8 or 11. *Gurman v. Metro Hous. Dev. Auth.*, 842 F. Supp. 2d 1151, 1153 (D. Minn. 2011). Finally, Plaintiffs did not respond to any of Defendants’ arguments that Plaintiffs’ claims fail as a matter of law. (See ECF No. 38.) Plaintiffs have therefore waived any argument that their claims are legally sufficient. See *Zimmerschied v. JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, 49 F. Supp. 3d 583, 590-91 (D. Minn. 2014) (a plaintiff voluntarily abandons claims by failing to address them in a motion to dismiss); see also *Hewitt v. City of Minneapolis*, No. 12-cv-2132 (DWF/FLN), 2013 WL 718189, at \*5, n.6 (D. Minn. Feb. 27, 2013) (same). After reviewing Plaintiffs’ 80-page complaints and attempting to link hundreds of factual allegations with Plaintiffs’ vaguely-stated COAs, the Court finds Plaintiffs fail to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Even broadly construed, Plaintiffs’ allegations simply do not meet *Ashcroft*’s plausibility requirements. *Ashcroft*, 556 U.S. at 678.

### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing, and on all of the files, records, and proceedings herein, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. Plaintiff Ryan J. White's Motion for Appointment of Counsel, *White v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 11-3702, (ECF No. [34]) is **DENIED**.

2. Plaintiff Gary P. Scott's Motion for Appointment of Counsel, *Scott v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 11-3714, (ECF No. [27]) is **DENIED**.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the foregoing, and on all of the files, records, and proceedings herein, **IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED THAT:**

1. Defendants' Motions to Dismiss be **GRANTED**:
  - a. *White v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 11-3702, (ECF No. [27]);
  - b. *Scott v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 11-3714, (ECF No. [32]); and
  - c. *Fries v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 12-62, (ECF No. [27]).
2. Plaintiff Ryan J. White's Motion to Not Dismiss the Complaint, *White v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 11-3702, (ECF No. [38]) be **DENIED**.
3. Plaintiff Gary P. Scott's Motion to Not Dismiss the Complaint, *Scott v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 11-3714, (ECF No. [39]) be **DENIED**.
4. The following matters be **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**:
  - a. *White v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 11-3702;
  - b. *Scott v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 11-3714; and
  - c. *Fries v. Dayton et al.*, Civ. No. 12-0062.

Dated: May 24, 2023

s/ Dulce J. Foster

DULCE J. FOSTER

United States Magistrate Judge



**NOTICE**

**Filing Objections:** This Report and Recommendation is not an order or judgment of the District Court and is therefore not appealable directly to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Under Local Rule 72.2(b)(1), “a party may file and serve specific written objections to a magistrate judge’s proposed finding and recommendations within 14 days after being served a copy” of the Report and Recommendation. A party may respond to those objections within 14 days after being served a copy of the objections. *See* Local Rule 72.2(b)(2). All objections and responses must comply with the word or line limits set forth in Local Rule 72.2(c).